

JUL 23 1969

LETTER TO PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON

BUSINESSMEN are also concerned about

VIETNAM

Dear Mr. President:

We of the business community are shocked and grieved by the brutality on both sides in the Vietnam conflict, and seek to add our voices to those pleading for an end to this continuing destruction of life and property.

We are disturbed by our government backing a series of regimes in South Vietnam none of which appear to have the support of the South Vietnamese people.

We feel a responsibility to express our concern about the danger of the escalating war in Vietnam. The steadily increasing military involvement of the United States is edging us toward a major war in Asia. This would be a disaster that many of our best military men warn against.

We are also fearful that escalation, at some point, will slip beyond the present level of warfare into the nuclear holocaust that has been threatening mankind.

As businessmen we have a particular interest in the promotion of peace. We believe that increased trade and commerce between all countries and peoples will accelerate the economic growth and welfare of each and all, and thus provide a sound basis for the maintenance of peace and order.

Therefore, we recommend that the United States lead the way in reversing the dangerous course of events. We urge a cessation of air strikes and a reduction in U. S. military involvement. These acts, moving towards peace, should develop a climate that will make it possible for serious negotiations to begin.

We recommend acts of conciliation, and the creation of conditions that will encourage the Vietnamese people to negotiate among themselves to settle their differences. We suggest that, with the help and mediation of neutral statesmen, they will be able to establish a stable and independent government of their own choice.